(c) how much amount is yet to be disbursed to the State Government of Gujarat; and

(d) by when the remaining amount would be disbursed and what are the reasons for delay in disbursement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The surcharge on income tax for Gujarat earthquake was in force for financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02. An amount of Rs. 2,187.82 crore has been collected under the head "Surcharge" for financial year 2000-01. This amount also includes collection in respect of surcharge for other pruposes including Kargil war and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Separate figures for collection I respect of surcharge for Gujarat earthquake for 2000-01 are not available.

In financial year 2001-02, there was no other surcharge on income tax in force except surcharge for Gujarat earthquake. A collection of Rs. 556.89 crore has been reported under the head "Surcharge" for financial year 2001-02.

(b) Apart from a non-plan grant of Rs. 750 crore provided to Gujarat for earthquake relief during 2001-02, the Central Government has also disbursed to the Government of Gujarat an amount of Rs. 500 crore crore in financial year 2001-01 and an amount of Rs. 967.37 crore in financial year 2001-02 from the National Calamity contingency Fund (NCCF)

(c) The entire amount due to be disbursed to the Government of Gujarat for earthquake relief and rehabilitation, as per the norms laid down under NCCF, has already been disbursed toit. No further amount is proposed to be disbursed to the Government of Gujarat from NCCF on account of earthquake relief and rehabilitation. It is mentionable that there is no necessary co-relation between the amount collected as surcharge and the amount disbursed from NCCF for a calamity.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to para (c) above.

Change of damaged notes

2318. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to various banks to change damaged/spoiled currency notes;

(b) if so, what are the details of such instructions;

(c) whether it is a fact that banks are not advertising through media advertisements for such facility; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to publicise the instructions of RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) RBI has advised all commercial banks to provide the facility of exchange of mutilated notes at their currency chest branches and the following facilities at all their branches;

meeting the demand for fresh/good quality notes and coins of all denominations,

exchange of soiled notes,

accepting notes and coins either for transactions or for exchange.

(c) and (d) A Citizens' Charter on the facility of exchange of notes and coins has been formulated and banks have been advised by RBI to prominently display the same in the branch premises and also widely publicise this in the newspapers so that members of public are aware of the currency exchange facilities provided by the branches. Banks have reported that they are implementing the instructions issued by RBI. During the inspection of currency chest branches of commercial banks by RBI, compliance of its instructions/guidelines about display of notice regarding the availability of such facilities is verified.

Uniform sales tax on petroleum products

2319. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is different percentage of sales tax charged by various State Governments on petroleum products and whether Central Government have received any representations from the State Governments for fixing uniform sales tax like VAT on petroleum products in the country;

(b) whether Government are seriously considering to fix uniform sales tax on petroleum products in the near future; if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Under Entry 54 of the State